



WITK

The Spark Gap

FEBRUARY 1981

Book VII Vol II

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

ELECTIONS

It's not too early to start thinking about next year's elected officers. The elective positions are: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Fund Raising Chairperson, and Operating Activities Chairperson. The term of office is from the first day of September through the last day of August of the next year. To quote from the By-Laws, "Any member of this society may nominate any member as a candidate for elective office. Nominations shall be made by submitting the name of a candidate for an office to the election committee prior to or during the second meeting in March."

Because of the time to make-up, print, and distribute the Spark Gap we must solicit nominations now so that written nominations are in the hands of the election committee by the second meeting in March. The election committee takes the view that oral nominations are not excluded by the By-Laws so if you prefer calling instead of writing, dial 332-6091 and tell C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, what member is nominating which member for what position. □

STATION ACTIVITIES

The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society will again this year be involved in the Shamrock Classic and the Charles River Run road races. Participants are needed who can operate on two meters to aid the officials with standings, medical problems, etc. The dates are as follows: Shamrock Classic is March 15, and Charles River Run is May 3. If you are able to participate in one or both of these public service events, please contact Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, at 762-5074. □



Dave Kent, N2AWG, operating 220 MHz CW during VHF Sweepstakes. See story on page 4.

The speaker at the February 19th meeting will be Mort Cohan, KA1IU. His subject will be the field of microprocessors and included in his talk will be a demonstration of his own microprocessor system. This is, of course, a very current topic and should be an interesting one. Hope to see you there. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm. □

MEETINGS THIS MONTH: _____

February 5, 1981 at 7:30 pm

February 19, 1981 at 7:30 pm

Intermediate Bldg, Wellesley Hills, Mass.

It Seems to Me...

by Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY

(The following was originally meant for the new years edition, but even late the sentiment is appropriate.)

As I sit here in my shack as the year tends to wind down, I reminisce about the past few years of the Spark Gap and what it contained.

At first we spread the type across the whole page. As time went by, we began putting pictures in it, the first being of Dick Jansson, WA1QLI, now WD4FAB, who is living in Florida, with a backpack containing his vhf gear as he is off on a field trip. Since that time we have cut the print to be two columns to give it a neater effect, had more pictures, even a crossword puzzle, articles that made it to the Worldradio newspaper for re-printing, and all sorts of timely articles to keep us abreast of the latest state of the art.

And how can we ever forget WE/ARY, that noble XYL who has an unmatched flair for writing articles. Many a chuckle I have got from her writings, and I trust, so have you.

We have seen members leave for other parts of the country while others moved here and found the WARS to their liking. But, in general, the Spark Gap has been the link to mold our club closer together even though we are not able to attend each meeting.

So, in my mutterings, I now look forward to the next ten years and what they will bring us. Under the editorship of Nels Anderson, K1UR, we have a competent, dedicated, hard working editor. To come up each month with another interesting edition is a marvel in itself when you consider the fact he gets very little input from the membership. Since New Years is now at hand, why don't we all make a resolution to contribute something to the Spark Gap. Make it a point to take the time to send in a letter about what your thoughts are, what gripes you have, what you would like to see the club doing, what you would like to see the club take up as a new activity. There are many more areas where you could contribute but these are a few for openers but PLEASE give Nels some help. After all, isn't this what a

club is all about, each member helping the other, as well as ourselves, and helping others learn more about our tremendous hobby.

And so, in my meditations I can see the next ten years will be just as productive as the past ten and I am looking forward with enthusiasm for each ensuing issue. □

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Nr 136, dated December 18, 1980:

The FCC has decided to make permanent the rule requiring commercially made Amateur Radio amplifiers to be type accepted. The Commission has also decided to release a further notice of proposed rulemaking in Docket 21117 looking toward allowing manufacturers of amplifiers to supply to licensed Amateurs instructions on how to modify the amplifiers already purchased to operate in the 28 MHz band. □

hr REPORT

Legal status for volunteer monitors who could assist in FCC enforcement efforts is being sought by Rep. William Dannemeyer, a California Republican. His bill, HR-8445, would amend the 1934 Communications Act to "permit the FCC to employ voluntary services for the purpose of monitoring violations of the act by Amateur station operators." He's hoping for early consideration in the next Congress--perhaps he'd consider broadening the coverage to make the Novice volunteer examiner program legal as well.

hr Report, January 16, 1981

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Amateurs living near airports will shortly be facing changes in licensing procedures. Under the present rules, Amateurs living near airports must note so on their applications and submit a Form 714 to Gettysburg when renewing or modifying their licenses. Under the new procedure, which was agreed to by the Commissioners and becomes effective as soon as appropriate forms can be prepared and distributed, those Amateurs will have to submit detailed antenna information direct to the FCC Antenna Survey Branch for consideration and approval. □

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society



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THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, F.C.C. RULES & REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SENT THEIR ARTICLES (TYPEWRITTEN IF POSSIBLE) TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OR TO THE CLUB ADDRESS.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS \$8. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
324 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181



Minutes

Meeting of January 8, 1981:

The meeting was opened at 8:00 pm by President David Curry, K1TK.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read.

The president gave a report on the message fair and the banquet.

The auction was discussed and it was decided to move it to April 18.

It was suggested that club members start thinking about where to go for Field Day this year.

It was announced that we would operate the VHF Sweepstakes the following weekend from W1YK, the Worcester Polytechnic Institute Wireless Association station and would also be entering the club category with the inclusion of other club members' scores from their home operations.

It was voted to cancel the remainder of the order for coaxial cable that had been placed some months ago.

The meeting was closed at 8:44 pm. □

Executive Minutes

Meeting of January 14, 1981:

The meeting was opened at 7:33 pm by President David Curry, K1TK.

The situation with the repeater was extensively discussed. There is a problem with access to the receive site. The site is operated by the water department and currently keys are available upon request during weekday working hours but only to WA1ZLQ. It was decided that the keys should be available to two more people who are involved in repeater maintenance and so K1TK and K10GF will be added to the list. At the transmit site, the hospital is installing an extension phone at their expense to be available for repeater control and for the emergency alerting system they have requested. The status of the new computer control system was discussed also.

The 1980/81 budget was the next topic of discussion. Since income has been lower than planned for, the budget was examined closely for items which are absolutely necessary before we get more income from the auction. It was decided that no expenses other than operating the Spark Gap will be incurred before the auction and thus there should be enough for the auction start up costs.

The auction itself was discussed, and Kevin Kelly, WA1YHV, told the meeting that the date of April 18 was confirmed as available and publicity had been sent to the magazines. Additional publicity was discussed as well as other auction needs.

The club generator is in need of a new six volt battery for the starting system. The cost would be around \$50. At the present, the generator is being kept operable by C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, who has recharged the current battery and started it each week, without which the generator probably would not start. In consideration of the earlier discussion of the budget, it was decided to table this item until after the auction.

The upcoming BAA Marathon was discussed. Problems with previous years operations, especially lack of publicity, were considered with possible solutions.

The meeting was closed at 10:56 pm. □

VHF Sweepstakes

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

The weekend of January 17 and 18 marked our second participation in the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes contest. As we did last year, our multi-operator station was at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute Wireless Association club station, W1YK. Though we knew we would be pretty well set up there, we knew beforehand that we had a very small chance of winning anything from this location in western Massachusetts, at least not when last year's national multi-op winner was located in the same section and it was known they would be on again. Because of this, we decided to take a different approach to winning something. This is one of the three ARRL contests that allow a club aggregate entry, where all club members operating add their scores together with each club competing with each other club in the same category. Last year, we entered the local club category (10 entries or less) as an experiment, and came in a very respectable third.

With last year's results in mind, and an examination of the operators in the club, it was felt that we would have a chance to win the local club category this year, if we made an effort to get other stations on in addition to the multi-op station. The two previous years, the national winner had come up with 33,000 points or less and this seemed well within our reach.

The final results won't be out until several months from now, but we know that we did make our goals in an effort to take the club competition. We ended up with five entries, including two multi-op stations, with totals as follows:

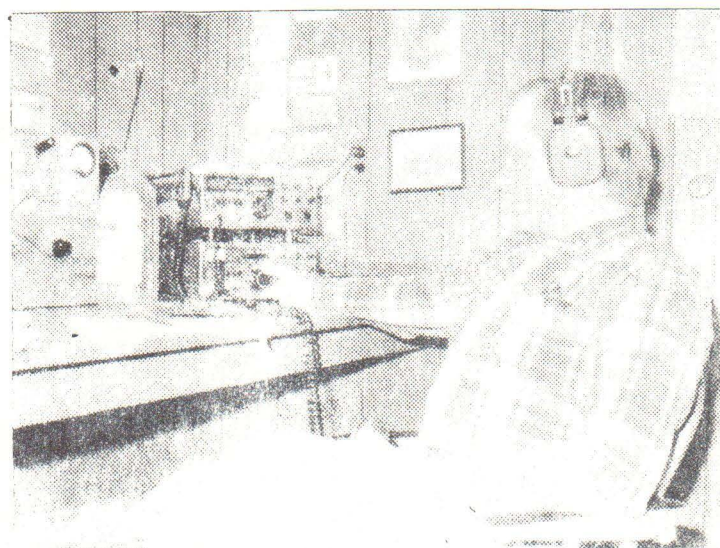
W1YK: 413 QSO's, 28,576 points
KA1IU: 110 QSO's, 5060 points
W1TKZ: 115 QSO's, 4320 points
K1UR: 32 QSO's, 1024 points
K1TK: 12 QSO's, 336 points
TOTAL: 39,318 points

As you can see, we did much better than the previous two year's winners did, so we have a good chance. In addition, Mort Cohan, KA1IU, is the club

single operator winner, and will be receiving a certificate for his efforts.

Our main effort was obviously from W1YK, where Wellesley club members David Kent, N2AWG, Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, Bill Downing, WA1PQY, David Curry, K1TK, Nels Anderson, K1UR, and Kevin Kelly, WA1YHV, as well as non-members Mike Oakes, WA1QNX and Gene Balinski, WA1UXA, held down the fort.

The setup at W1YK was quite extensive, with the addition of a new 220 MHz cw station. On six meters, the equipment consisted of a Yaesu FT625RD and Heath SB-220 into a five element yagi at 140 feet; two meters ran a Kenwood TS-700S, 350 watt amplifier, preamp, and 22 elements horizontally or 11 elements vertically; on 220 MHz we had either a Midland synthesized FM rig running 25 watts or a homebrew cw transmitter and separate converter and receiver running about 10 watts, each into 8 element yagis; on 432 MHz, we had our homebrew cw rig running 8 watt, and a variety of converters, preamps, filters and such, into a 15 element yagi.



Bill Downing, WA1PQY, tuning on two meters for a new section.

This year we made an effort to not slack off and miss any openings, as it seemed to pay off with a big increase in our two meter total and a greater number of sections overall. Six meter conditions were about aver-

age, with nothing more than some scatter openings to the mid-west. Still, our totals were up nicely from last years 352 contacts and 19 multipliers:

Band	QSOs	Pts each	Pts.	Mult.
50	174	2	348	
144	219	2	438	
220	10	4	40	
432	10	4	40	
TOTAL	413		866	23

The other club multi-op station used the club call W1TKZ from Snow Hill in Dover. Operators were Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ and Scott Nacey, WA1YOJ. Most operation was on two meters where they had SSB, CW and FM running 80 watts. Additional contacts were made on 220 FM and 6 FM. Operating out of a car for the number of hours they did was quite an effort and their total shows it.

Mort Cohan, KA1IU, operated from his home only on two meters running SSB, CW, and FM at about 140 watts. His results also show quite a few hours of effort. K1TK and K1UR each took trips from the W1YK multi-op station to the Worcester airport, which with an altitude of about 1000 feet provided a nice site for some short term operating on two meters.

This contest shows a good effort of ten club members pulling together toward a common goal. Even if our effort wins no awards, accomplishing what we set out to do is still commendable and in doing so provided an exciting week-end of operating for all involved. □

Hearabouts....

Two more Spark Gap articles gained national attention in the January issue of Worldradio, thus giving our club activities some wide publicity. Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY, had his article on the Boston 350 Parade from the November 1980 issue printed. The other article was the Massachusetts QSO Party story from the Summer 1980 issue written by Nels Anderson, K1UR.

Want to see your name in genuine print and gain possible nationwide attention? Write for the Spark Gap! □

OLDE TIME RADIO

by Jim Idelson, K1IR

Part Eight

The second Washington Radio Conference was held in March, 1923. Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover was still searching for authority to regulate radio broadcasting. Congress did nothing to help him and as a result, Hoover went ahead to make changes on his own.

Three classifications of stations were defined. There were the high-power stations, using over 500 watts and playing no phonograph records. They were allocated various channels between 300 and 545 meters. These stations had no interference problems over wide areas, though there would be a small amount of time-shared scheduling in certain regions. The second group was those under 500 watts, but professional enough in their programming to be allowed to leave the 360 meter confusion. The third group was all the rest of the low-power stations, with limited audiences. It was urged that he abolish them completely, but instead he allowed them continued existence with limited hours of operation in order to minimize the interminable interference.

These reallocations went into effect on May 15, 1923. In the same time frame an understanding was reached between the members of the alliance. Westinghouse, General Electric and RCA would each operate three stations, providing coast-to-coast coverage and AT&T would go ahead with their toll stations. Westinghouse's three stations were KDKA, KYW and WBZ. RCA ran WRC, Washington, WJY, reactivated recently and WJZ, which Westinghouse had turned over to them. General Electric had only WGY, Schenectady, but in the works were KGO, San Francisco and KOA, Denver. AT&T was constructing a second toll station, WCAP, in Washington, D.C.

Owen D. Young, who became chairman of the board for RCA when it was form-

ed, had embarked on a search for a new president of the corporation. Edward J. Nally was being moved to another department. An unknown to the radio world was chosen, Major General James Harbord. Harbord, who assumed the presidency of the corporation in January, 1923, was a perfect figure-head because of his extreme Americanism and his ability to relate well with the governmental powers.

There was some consternation at the possibility of advertising corrupting the radio medium. Magazines were complaining of indirect advertisements creeping into the picture. Shows were being named with the sponsors appellation, like Harper's Bazaar and the Wanamaker Organ Concert. Talks sponsored by a corporation were often suspiciously connected with the company's advertised product.

Though artists were still coming to radio stations everywhere, they were becoming less and less excited about it. Station logs recount a number of no-shows. Soon emergency talent was being hired for such instances. An alternative had to be found.

Drama was one alternative. The WGY players, a group formed in August, 1922, was composed of local volunteers and drama enthusiasts in the Schenectady area.

In the area of news, commentary began to appear here and there. Hans von Kaltenborn was the first radio commentator. He had a certain way about him which always impressed the listener. He gave a speech over WEA, giving a negative opinion of action taken by a high ranking U.S. diplomat in response to overtures by a foreign power. Almost immediately, he was taken off the air. A telephone company representative in Washington had been instructed "not to criticize a cabinet member over the facilities of the New York Telephone Company".

Kaltenborn survived and traveled throughout the country, speaking at stations of all kinds. His commentaries were exciting. They provoked reaction from the public. He became the most novel radio personality of the period.

A new era began with the idea of linking two stations by wire for sim-

ultaneous broadcast of the same program. Two unsuccessful implementations were tried, one between WJY and WGY in October, 1922, the second between WMAF and WNAC, Boston, on January 4, 1923. The Boston to New York hookup was enough to convince the AT&T engineers that it could work. A new type of cable was needed and a station to experiment with.

The station WMAF in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, was offered for the experiment. The cable was installed and programming was provided for WMAF during the summer months of 1923. It was immensely successful in the Dartmouth area. People drove from miles around to hear fight broadcasts for which WMAF erected loudspeakers. Thus the permanent connection between two stations for simulcasting was made.

The experiment had been a tremendous success and a plan was drafted by AT&T for a thirty-eight station hookup which would blanket the nation. At the close of 1923, six stations were linked and in December, 1924, twenty-six stations gave coast-to-coast coverage.

"New Tickets"



Congratulations to Arthur Thompson, KA1ENP and a recent graduate of our Novice classes, and Edward Gallagher, WB1FCZ, on upgrading to General class. Vin Dwyer, another recent Novice class graduate, is now N1BCP as a result of upgrading to Technician class. Good going all, and hope you keep up your advancement and activities in Amateur Radio.

Anyone else who upgrades, or is involved in any other Amateur Radio activity is encouraged to share their accomplishments with their fellow club members through the pages of the Spark Gap. Please send your news to the Editor.

CHUCKLE KORN

It happened in my grandfather's village quite awhile back. One morning the people went out of their doors to see a gang of workmen sticking tall wooden poles in the ground at intervals along the side of the one narrow dirt road that ran through the place. Pretty soon another gang came along and climbed the poles to hang what looked like long pieces of fence-wire on them. The villagers asked one of the gang what all this was for.

"Telegraph," he replied.

As no further explanation was forthcoming, and as the word "telegraph" was something mysterious to them, the villagers went to their wise man to find out what it was all about.

"Well, yes," he said slowly. "The telegraph; it's to send messages a long way very fast."

"But how does it work?" they asked him.

The old man thought for a space, and then he said, "Let me give you a for instance: if you pull a dog's tail the dog yelps, isn't that so?"

"Oh. Yes, we understand."

Not long afterwards, the villagers saw something in a newspaper about wireless telegraphy. Again they went to visit the wise man.

"You told us how the telegraph is like a dog's tail being pulled and the dog yelping. Well, now what is this wireless telegraphy?"

"Oh," the scholar replied as he scratched his bald head for a minute. "Yes--that's the tail and the yelp without the dog!"

--Anonymous, de W10QP

WANTED

We would like to restart a Profiles column in the Spark Gap in the near future, but a Profiles editor is needed. This would require interviewing one club member a month and writing a short article on him and his radio activities. This would provide a great service in allowing all members to get to know each other better through the pages of the Spark Gap and would give the Profiles editor the chance to meet many club members. Any volunteers? □

Auctions / Flea Markets

March 6: University of Lowell Wireless Society flea market, Cumnock Hall, North Campus of University of Lowell. Set up starts at 6:00 pm, flea market runs 7:00 to 11:00 pm. Admission is 50¢. For table reservations, contact University of Lowell Wireless Society, Student Information Center, Box 133, University of Lowell, Lowell, Mass. 01854. Talk in on 146.52 and 147.12. □

Deadline for the March 1981 issue of the Spark Gap is February 15. Please get your information to the editor by that date.

OFFICERS

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RECORDING SECRETARY:

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EDUCATION CHAIRMAN:

Bill Downing, WA1PQY, 655-3040

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR:

David Curry, K1TK, 756-5325

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:

Mort Cohan, KA1IU, 359-7979

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STATION MANAGER:

Erik J. Thoresen, K1OGF, 653-1216

TRUSTEE:

Lud Fasolino, K1LF, 237-0316

REPEATER COMMITTEE:

David Curry, K1TK, 237-2450

Bill Downing, WA1PQY, 655-3040

Scott Nacey, WA1YOJ, 235-1599

Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, 762-5074

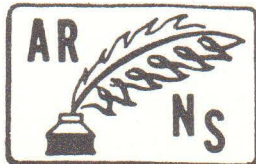
The Spark Gap



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M E M B E R



Amateur Radio News Service

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